

Conley House
4919 Montgomery Road
HO-344

Located on 1.5 acres on the north side of Montgomery Road east of the intersection of Route 103, this 2 1/2 story late-Victorian house was built about 1890. Arranged in a massed plan, three bays long and two bays wide with an ell, the gabled structure displays the popular rural vernacular center gable and wrap-around porch.

This house is significant as one of the last remaining examples of late 19th century victorian rural vernacular architecture along Montgomery Road.

Montgomery Road has historically been an important thoroughfare in Howard County linking Ellicott City (via Columbia Pike) with Elk Ridge, once a major inland port. Today the house represents the last vestige of a rural environment along what is now a densely developed corridor. While the lot is small the mature trees provide a buffer from the road.

HO-344

The Handwerk House
Ellicott City
Private

1905

The Handwerk House faces south on the north side of Montgomery Road or Route 103, just east of its intersection with Route 104.

It is a three bay wide, two room deep, two and a half story high, frame (covered with asbestos shingles), gabled roof (running east-west) house, resting on a stone foundation, with a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame kitchen wing off the east side of its north wall, which creates an "L" plan.

Square, brick corbeled chimneys rise from the east and west sides of the center of its gabled roof, which features a central, intersecting gable on the south facade, holding a roman arched, two-over-two light, double hung, attic window.

A two story high, bay window is located on the north side of its east wall.

A one story high, hipped roof, open porch runs along the entire south elevation and half of its east wall, supported by nine wooden columns, while a smaller hipped roof, open porch, supported by two square posts, covers the four light rectangular kitchen entrance on the north wall of that wing.

Fenestration is vertically aligned and proportionally scaled. Windows are double-hung, holding two-over-two lights, decorated with shutters and underlined by projecting wooden sills.

A wide, central, double entrance door is located on the south elevation, flanked by two vertical side lights and surmounted by a three light transom.

The house is notable as the home which was constructed in 1905 by Christian Ekert, who operated The Howard House in Ellicott City and later as the home of Michael Sullivan, historian and well beloved Post Master of Ellicott City.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. HO-344

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name) Conley House

historic Eckert House, Sullivan House, Handwerk House

and/or common Conley House

2. Location

street & number 4919 Montgomery Road (MD 103) not for publication

city, town Ellicott City vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Howard

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> religious
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:
			<u> </u> military

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Michele and Jeffrey Conley

street & number 4919 Montgomery Road telephone no.:

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21043

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County liber 1932

street & number 8360 Court Avenue folio 156

city, town Ellicott City state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HO-344

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on 1.5 acres on the north side of Montgomery Road east of the intersection of Route 103, this 2 1/2 story late-Victorian house was built about 1890. Arranged in a massed plan, three bays long and two bays wide with an ell, the gabled structure displays the popular rural vernacular center gable and wrap-around porch.

The facade is dominated by a center gable which holds a round-arch window. The windows are placed symmetrically around center six-paneled door with a narrow transom and sidelights. There are windows in both gables and a bay window in the second story north bay on the east side.

The hipped roof porch, which runs along the front, or south, side and east side, is supported by round columns and has a tongue and groove board floor. The porch is raised and rests on brick piers linked by a lattice apron.

Windows are all double hung 2/2 sash with the exception of the two flank the front door which are elongated 2/4 sash. The ell is two bay long and one bay wide and joins the main block at the east end of the north side.

Corbelled brick chimneys interrupt the roof ridge on the gable ends and on the gable end of the ell. The house has a raised random fieldston foundation and vinyl siding, probably placed over clapboards.

A front drive circles four mature oak trees which help separate the house from the busy thoroughfare and contribute to its 19th century character.

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-344

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This house is representative of the rural vernacular architecture in the County.

This house is significant as one of the last remaining examples of late 19th century Victorian rural vernacular architecture along Montgomery Road.

Statement continued. See attached.

Survey No. HO-344

PS-2746

4919 Montgomery Road

HO-344

Significance Statement Continued

Deed records show that the property was originally part of a large estate known as Chew's Resolution Manor and Chew's Vineyards, a land grant property comprising hundreds of acres. In 1874 Mary Dorsey subdivided the land, selling Lots 2, 4, 5 and 6 totaling 240 acres to James Clark. In 1891 Clark bought Lot 3, totaling 82 acres, then sold the lot that now contains this house to William Davis Jr. After examining its style and the deeds, it is probable that the house was constructed after this sale. Between 1924 and 1988 the property shrunk from 31 acres to less than two acres as suburban development sprung up around it.

Montgomery Road has historically been an important thoroughfare in Howard County linking Ellicott City (via Columbia Pike) with Elkridge, once a major inland port. Today the house represents the last vestige of a rural environment along what is now a densely developed corridor. While the lot is small the mature trees provide a buffer from the road. With the exception of artificial siding, the house retains its 19th century integrity.

Conley House
4919 Montgomery Road
HO-344

HISTORIC PERIOD CONTEXT:

Region: Piedmont

Period: Industrial/Landscape Architecture and Community
Planning

Theme: Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community
Planning

Resource Type: Residence/rural vernacular

Site Types: Standing structures

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 1403445704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The Handwerk House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4919 Montgomery Road

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mary L.W.C. and Mark H. Handwerk

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

4919 Montgomery Road

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21043

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records Tax Map 31, p. 309

Liber #: 698

Folio #: 614

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Handwerk House faces south on the north side of Montgomery Road, just east of its intersection with Route 104.

It is a three bay wide, two room deep, two and a half story high, frame (covered with asbestos shingles), gabled roof (running east-west) house, resting on a stone foundation. Square, brick, corbeled chimneys rise from the east and west sides of the center of its gabled roof which features a central, intersecting gable on the south facade, holding a Roman arched two-over-two light, double-hung attic window. A two story high, bay window is located on the north side of its east wall. Extending from the east side of the north wall is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame kitchen wing.

A one story high, hipped roof, open porch runs along the entire south elevation and half of its east wall, supported by nine wooden columns.

A smaller hipped roof, open porch, supported by two square posts covers the four light, rectangular kitchen entrance in the east bay of the kitchen wing's north wall. Six wooden steps lead to its landing, while four wooden steps on its west wall lead to the semi-enclosed porch created in the northwest corner of this kitchen section. A square brick chimney is centered into the north wall of the kitchen wing.

Fenestration for the house is vertically aligned and proportionally scaled. Windows are double-hung, holding two-over-two lights, decorated with green shutters and underlined by projecting wooden sills. One three light basement window is inset into the east and north walls of the house, and two similar ones in its west foundation wall, which holds the cornerstone marked "C.E. 1905" on its south side. Tall rectangular, first floor windows, featuring two-over-four lights, flank the double, wooden paneled, central entrance door on the south elevation.

This wide entrance is surmounted by a three light transom, flanked by two vertical side lights, and leads into a vestibule which features a double paneled entrance, also surmounted by a three light transom and flanked by two vertical side lights.

This interior entrance, in turn, leads into the central hall, which holds a fine staircase, featuring curvilinear spindles and supporting Knewel post.

Interior cross paneled doors are flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted by fluted wooden lintels, joined at their corners by squares decorated with rosettes. The most interesting feature of these interior doors, however, are their two-light transoms, which can be opened to provide circulation as well as light, while allowing doors to be closed for privacy.

Floors are constructed of 3½ inch pine boards. The fine mantelpiece in the dining room, located in the northeast corner of the front section of the house, features an architrave decorated with curvilinear garlands.

The kitchen wing features an enclosed staircase leading up to a bedroom and bath in that section of the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1905 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Handwerk House is significant architecturally to the State of Maryland and Howard County as an example of the Romanesque style as represented in American domestic architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is also significant historically as the home of Christian Eckert, owner and operator of the historic Howard House in Ellicott City, who constructed the house in 1905, and of Michael Sullivan, local historian and beloved Postmaster of Ellicott City, who bought the house on Montgomery Road in 1924, and remained there with his large family for sixteen years. The following description of the house and Sullivan Family is given on page 67 of a small booklet entitled, The Family Sullivan, written by Joseph Howard Nichols, a grandson of Michael James Sullivan (1875-1945).

The house was to be home to Mike and his family for sixteen years (1924-1945). Much family history took place during this era. In addition to Mike, Rose and children, the house was also home to two friends and one relative. The latter was Broyderick Laffy, Rose's brother, who lived with the Sullivans until his death in 1939. Uncle Doc, as he was called, did much of the work on the property, as well as housework and helping in the kitchen. Another indication of Mike's good will is the two friends who lived and ate free of charge.

It should be mentioned here that the Sullivan family also provided two rooms in the house to Christian and Emma Eckert, from whom they had purchased the house for \$6,000. They remained with the Sullivan family until their deaths.

The dialogue in the booklet continues with a brief description of Mike's dog, Governor, who was trained to bring his slippers down from the bedroom, and to bring in the daily newspaper; to a description of Mike's garden, where he spent many hours. It continues with the following interesting data on auxiliary buildings on the property. This description is significant for it gives us a picture of the customs and habits of Howard Countians during this period of time. Tenant houses produced additional income for property owners. Such a tenant house, once located on the property, then comprising 31 acres, produced \$180 per year income. In addition, the property then consisted of another tenant house, a pump house, a barn (later a garage), and the main house, consisting of 12 rooms, a bath and a large front porch.

The barn produced additional income for the Sullivans in an unusual way. It was the custom of Howard Countians to attend cock fights on Saturday evenings during different periods each year. Mike Sullivan sponsored such activities, in the old

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

barn, which drew large crowds, including the wealthy, who were charged admission. It was noted by his grandson that Mike never permitted members of his family to attend these cock fights, which were illegal.

For nineteen years, Michael Sullivan served Howard County as Clerk to the County Commissioner (1911-1930), for five years as newspaper man for The Times in Ellicott City (1930-1935), and later, in July, 1936, at the age of 61, became acting Ellicott City Postmaster, made permanent on May 17, 1937. He served in that capacity until his death in 1945.

Not only the Eckert and Sullivan families have contributed to the historical significance of this house, but the present owners today make their own unique contribution. Mrs. Handwerk is the daughter of Mary Levina Owings, fourth direct descendant of the first Governor of Maryland, Thomas Johnson, who nominated George Washington as Commander-In-Chief, and who was one of three Marylanders to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In conclusion, the Handwerk House is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland as the home of Christian and Emma Eckert, who operated the Historic Howard House in Ellicott City, renowned for its fine German cuisine; secondly, as the home of Michael Sullivan, local writer and historian of note, who served over a quarter of a century as a responsible and dedicated public servant to Howard County and Ellicott City, Maryland; and thirdly, as the present home of a direct descendant of Thomas Johnson, the first Governor of Maryland, and one of three Marylanders to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Through the history written by Michael Sullivan's grandson, we also receive a vivid picture of the growth and development of an Irish immigrant family and its complete assimilation into the life of the United States as represented in Howard County, Maryland, culminating in one of its members actively engaged in career government service and recognized as a distinguished local historian.

Additionally, the house is noteworthy architecturally as representative of the Romanesque Revival, which took place in American domestic architecture during the last half of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth. The roman arched attic window inset into its central intersecting gable is representative of this style. Many such houses, similarly constructed, dot the Howard County landscape. All are significant in recalling a period of stylistic architectural history in America.

For these reasons, the Handwerk House is of outstanding significance to Howard County and the State of Maryland, and should be considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program, and any local landmark ordinance the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HO-344
Dist. 2

Interview with Mrs. Mark Handwerk, April 2, 1979
Land Records of Howard County, Maryland
Nichols, Joseph Howard, The Family Sullivan, Rockville, 1977

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.132 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 31, p. 309

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 698 Folio 614

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

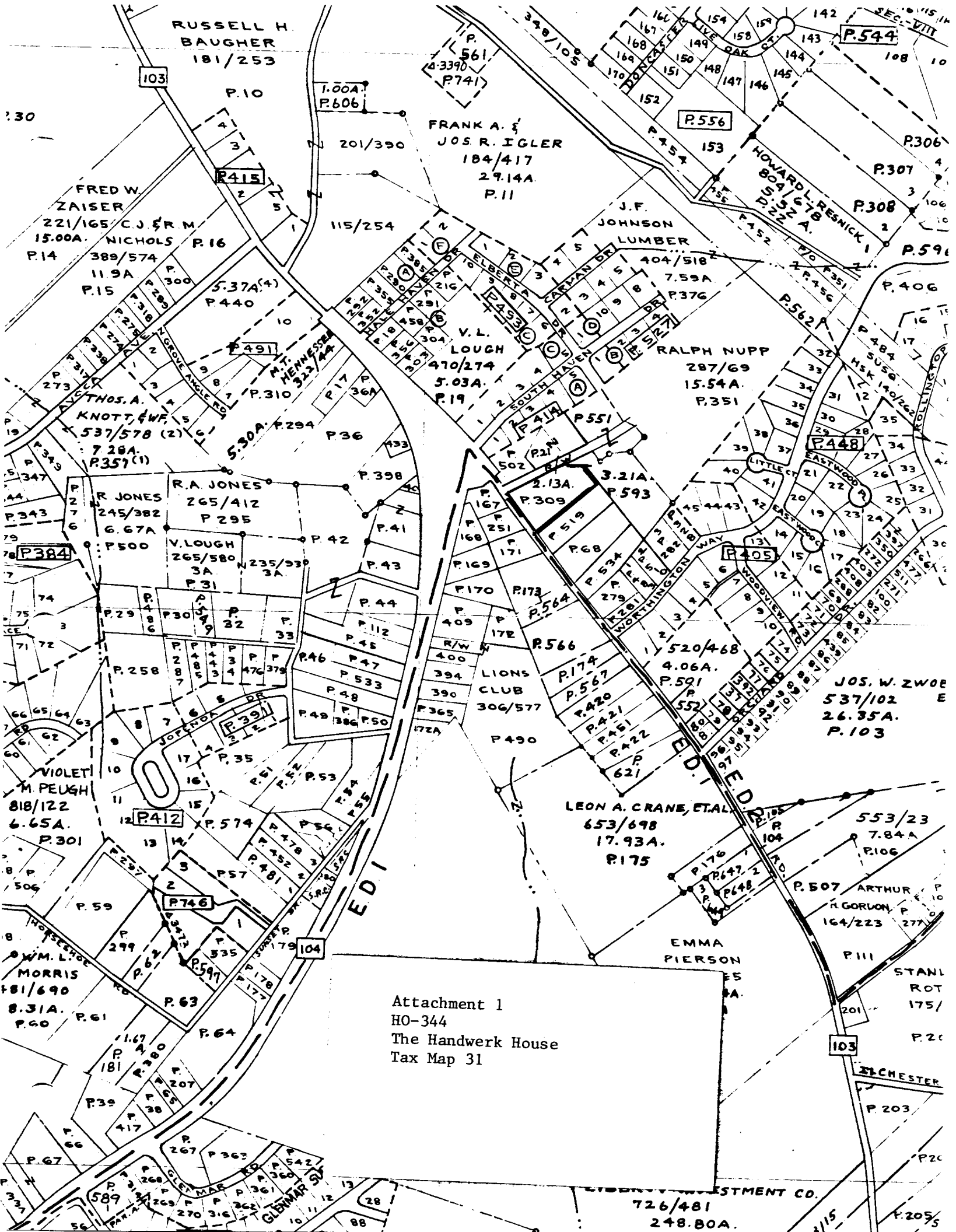
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Attachment 1
HO-344
The Handwerk House
Tax Map 31

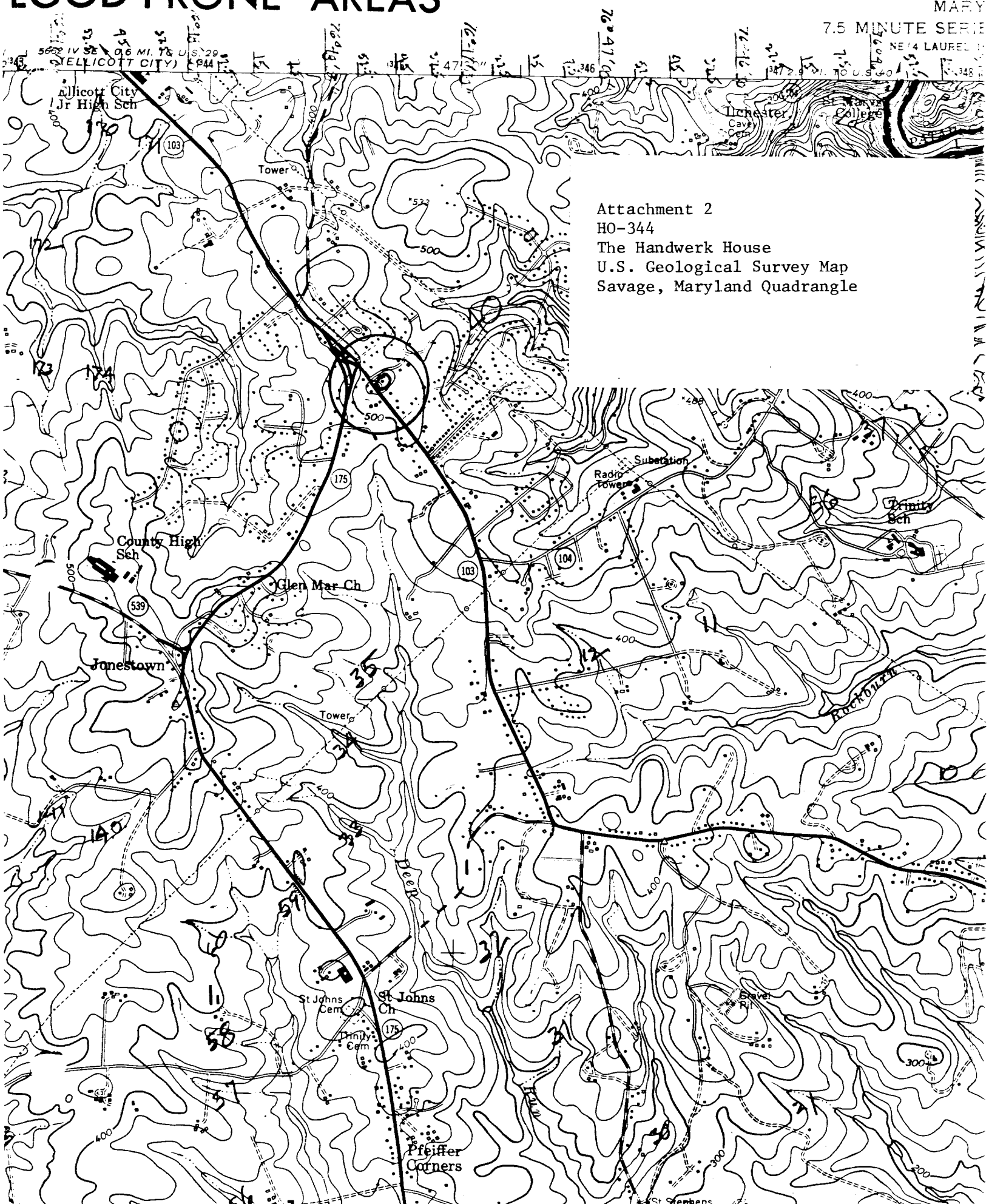
FLOOD-PRONE AREAS

SAVAGE QU

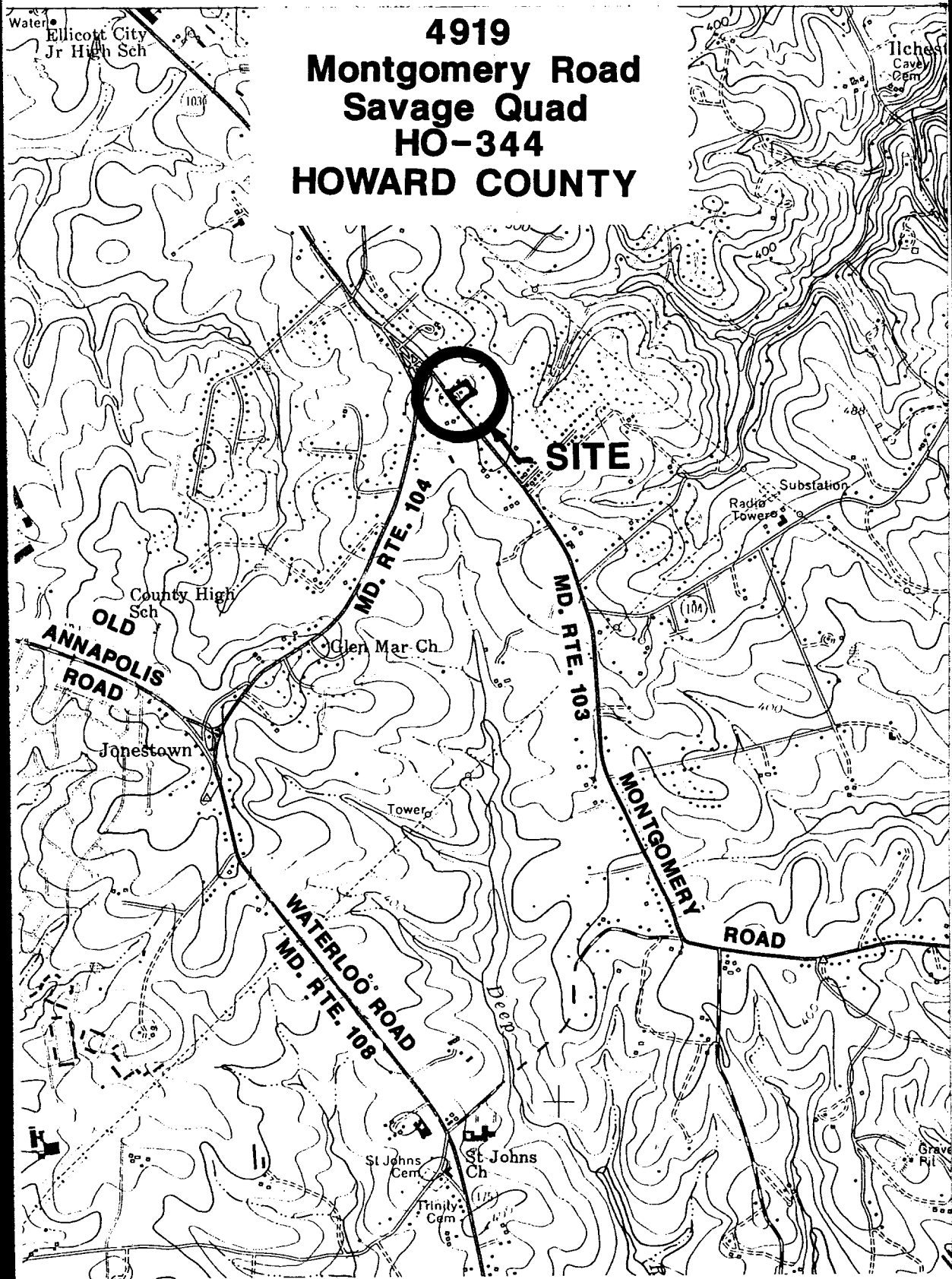
MARY

7.5 MINUTE SERIES

NE 1/4 LAUREL



**4919
Montgomery Road
Savage Quad
HO-344
HOWARD COUNTY**





HO- ~~636~~ 344
4919 MONTGOMERY RD.
HOWARD COUNTY, MD
AMY WOODEN

8/91
MO. SHF

SEE EVIDENCE



Ho-344
The Handwork Hoose
South east
C B Thompson, AICP
APRIL, 1979